

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Attn. Abelev, Gary
250 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10177
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Patent Mark Received

FEB 03 2009

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

02/02/2009

Applicant's or agent's file reference

189425/PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US2008/071786

International filing date
(day/month/year)

31/07/2008

Applicant

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within **20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Sara Bertoni

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments and any accompanying statement, under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the time of filing the amendments (and any statement) with the International Bureau, also file with the International Preliminary Examining Authority a copy of such amendments (and of any statement) and, where required, a translation of such amendments for the procedure before that Authority (see Rules 55.3(a) and 62.2, first sentence). For further information, see the Notes to the demand form (PCT/IPEA/401).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, the written opinion of the International Searching Authority will, except in certain cases where the International Preliminary Examining Authority did not act as International Searching Authority and where it has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b), be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. If a demand is made, the applicant may submit to the International Preliminary Examining Authority a reply to the written opinion together, where appropriate, with amendments before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 43bis.1(c)).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 189425/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2008/071786	International filing date (day/month/year) 31/07/2008	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 31/07/2007
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of International search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

- b. ☐ This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6bis(a)).

- c. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1A

☒ as suggested by the applicant
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. A61B5/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 92/19930 A (MASSACHUSETTS INST TECHNOLOGY [US]; SWANSON ERIC A [US]) ✓ 12 November 1992 (1992-11-12)	1-9, 11-20,22
Y	page 19, line 15 - page 22, line 3 page 24, line 9 - page 26, line 22 page 32, line 15 - page 33, line 7 page 47, line 4 - page 48, line 8 figures 1B-1D, 8A, 8B	10,21
X	WO 2006/004743 A (UNIV WASHINGTON [US]; SEIBEL ERIC [US]; LI XINGDE [US]; LIU XIUMEI [US]) 12 January 2006 (2006-01-12) page 3, line 29 - page 4, line 15 page 11, line 1 - line 18 page 17, line 25 - page 20, line 34 figures 1-3, 12A, 12B ----- -/-	1-9, 11-20,22

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 January 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/02/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Montes, Pau

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 006 128 A (IZATT JOSEPH A [US] ET AL) ✓ 21 December 1999 (1999-12-21) column 2, line 5 - column 6, line 8 column 6, line 45 - column 7, line 67 column 13, line 24 - line 33 figures 1,4	10,21
A	----- VAKOC B J ET AL: "Phase-resolved optical frequency domain imaging" ✓ OPTICS EXPRESS 20050611 OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA US, vol. 13, no. 14, 11 June 2005 (2005-06-11), pages 5483-5493, XP002510695 cited in the application the whole document -----	1-22

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9219930	A	12-11-1992	DE 69227902 D1	28-01-1999
			DE 69227902 T2	17-06-1999
			EP 0581871 A1	09-02-1994
			JP 3479069 B2	15-12-2003
			JP 6511312 T	15-12-1994
			JP 3692131 B2	07-09-2005
			JP 2004105708 A	08-04-2004
			US 5459570 A	17-10-1995
WO 2006004743	A	12-01-2006	US 5321501 A	14-06-1994
			EP 1768564 A2	04-04-2007
			JP 2008504557 T	14-02-2008
US 6006128	A	21-12-1999	US 2004254474 A1	16-12-2004
			US 2003023153 A1	30-01-2003

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2008/071786

International filing date (day/month/year)
31.07.2008

Priority date (day/month/year)
31.07.2007

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. A61B5/00

Applicant
THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
☐ Box No. II Priority
☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Montes, Pau

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7259



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2008/071786

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2008/071786

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>7-8,10,18-19,21</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-6,9,11-17,20,22</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-22</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-22</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO 92/19930 A (MASSACHUSETTS INST TECHNOLOGY [US]; SWANSON ERIC A [US]) 12 November 1992 (1992-11-12)
D2: WO 2006/004743 A (UNIV WASHINGTON [US]; SEIBEL ERIC [US]; LI XINGDE [US]; LIU XIUMEI [US] 12 January 2006 (2006-01-12)
D3: US-A-6 006 128 (IZATT JOSEPH A [US] ET AL) 21 December 1999 (1999-12-21)

- 2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-6, 9, 11-17, 20 and 22 appears not to be new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1 Independent claim 1 does not fulfil the requirements of Article 6 PCT because it is unclear. The expressions "a segment having a positive/negative velocity" (see p. 14, l. 10-11) do not have clear meaning. The applicant probably refers to the *beam velocity* as mentioned in the description (see p. 9, l. 14-15). It is also not clear what is meant by the "distance of a segment" (see p. 14, l. 11-12). Probably here *length of a segment* is meant. Finally, the sentence

"wherein a first distance of at least one of the at least one first segment or the at least one second segment is smaller than a second distance between the first and second points"

appears not to define any additional technical restriction. The first and second segments are comprised in the scan along a path from the first point to the second point. Therefore, by definition the first and second segments are shorter than the distance between the first and the second point (except if one of the segments could have length 0).

This lack of clarity notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 1 appears to be known from document D1. This document discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

- an apparatus (see title) comprising:
- at least one first arrangement configured to measure at least one of an amplitude or a phase of at least one electromagnetic radiation provided from a particular portion of a sample (see p. 25, l. 15 to p. 26, l. 22); and
- at least one second arrangement configured to scan a location of the particular portion along a path from a first point of the sample to a second point of the sample (see p. 47, l. 4 to p. 48, l. 8),
- wherein the at least one second arrangement controls the scan such that the scan comprises at least one first segment having a positive velocity and at least one segment having a negative velocity, and wherein a first distance of at least one of the at least one first segment or the at least one second segment is smaller than a second distance between the first and second points (see p. 47, l. 4 to p. 48, l. 8).

Additionally, the applicant should be aware that D1 also discloses a saw-tooth scanning profile (see p. 21, l. 19-23 and figs. 8A and 8B) which implies that the scanning beam is moved segment-wise with positive and negative velocities along the scanning path.

- 2.2 The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that the subject-matter of claim 1 is also known from document D2 (see passages cited in the search report). This document also discloses a saw-tooth profile (see p. 11, l. 7-14 and fig. 3).
- 2.3 Independent claim 12 defines a method comprising the steps carried out by the sub-units of the device defined in claim 1. Document D1 also discloses the corresponding method (see e.g. title) and therefore, the arguments provided under point 2.1 can be applied mutatis mutandis to the subject-matter of said claim 12.

Document D2 also discloses the corresponding method (see claim 2). As a consequence, claim 12 is also not novel in view of D2.

- 2.4 The additional features of dependent claims 2-6, 9, 11, 13-17, 20 and 22 are disclosed in document D1. The corresponding reasons are the following:
- for claims 2 and 13: see p. 24, l. 9 to p. 25, l. 2 and p. 33, l. 3-7
 - for claims 3-4 and 14-15: claims 3-4 and 14-15 do not define any clear

- for claims 5 and 16: technical features but merely results to be achieved
- for claims 6 and 17: see fig. 1B
- for claims 9 and 20: the fact that the frequency of the electromagnetic radiation provided from a sample changes over time is a consequence of the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with the sample and does not define any clear technical restriction to the subject-matter of claims 1 and 12, respectively
- for claims 11 and 22: see p. 1, I. 2-3
- for claims 11 and 22: claims 11 and 22 do not define a clear technical restriction but merely a result to be achieved

3 The subject-matter of dependent claims 7-8, 10, 18-19 and 21 appears not to involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT for the following reasons:

- for claims 7-8 and 18-19: the sentence "a third distance the first point to the second point" has no clear meaning. The "first/second distance" refers probably to the length of the first and second segments (see point 2.1). This lack of clarity notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claims 7-8 and 18-19 does not appear to be inventive since the particular choice of a length for the segments does not involve an inventive activity
- for claims 10 and 21: see col. 13, I. 24-33 in D3

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General
information

For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.

Amending claims
under
Art. 19 PCT

Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.

Filing a demand
for international
preliminary
examination

In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).

Filing informal
comments

After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.

End of the
international
phase

At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).

Relevant PCT
Rules and more
information

Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, QJ 11/2003, QJ 12/2003

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